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A2C36UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION  
Bureau of Animal Industry<sup>3</sup>  
Changes in the National Turkey Improvement Plan //  
(Adopted at the 1945 Meeting of the Emergency Executive Committee)

The Emergency Executive Committee of the National Poultry Improvement Plan elected at the 1942 national conference to represent the participating States and industry members during the war emergency or until another national conference could be held, met with representatives of the Bureau of Animal Industry in Washington, D. C. on June 20, 21, and 22, 1945. Since the National Turkey Improvement Plan had been adopted and became operative in the interim since the last national conference and because the Emergency Executive Committee was elected primarily to assist with the chicken plan administration it was considered desirable to have additional representatives from the turkey industry in the consideration of proposed changes in the National Turkey Improvement Plan. Therefore at the invitation of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Charles W. Wampler of Harrisonburg, Va., R. M. Calbert of Springfield, Mo., and George McCarthy of Fort Worth, Texas attended the meeting to further represent the turkey breeders and hatcheries. Mr. Wampler is President of the National Turkey Federation, Mr. Calbert is chairman of the official State agency in Missouri and a member of the turkey improvement committee of the National Turkey Federation, and Mr. McCarthy is chairman of the turkey improvement committee.

Consideration was given to changes that had been compiled from various sources during the past year. The changes in Miscellaneous Publication No. 555 "The National Turkey Improvement Plan" adopted by the enlarged committee and approved by the Bureau were as follows:

- (1) Page 2, Paragraph 14 and 15. Changed to delete the words "for sale."
- (2) Page 3, Regulation 6. First sentence changed to read as follows:

All eggs used in any breeding stage of this plan shall be reasonably uniform in size and shape, sound in shell, and shall weigh at least 2-1/2 ounces each.

- (3) Page 4, Regulation 13. Changed to read as follows:

Breeding stock and each bundle or package of hatching eggs and poults sold or offered for sale by participants shall be designated by official labels or tags defining the breeding stage and pullorum class in accord with the regulations of the plan, except that poults that are seconds, culls, rejects, or abnormal for variety characteristics shall not be sold or offered for sale under official labels.  
(see Regulations 8 and 23)

- (4) Page 5, Regulation 21. Changed to read as follows:

Participation in one of the pullorum classes shall be a prerequisite to participation in any of the breeding stages in the plan.

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- (5) Page 6. Added a new regulation to read as follows:

The term broad-breasted shall not be used in describing any variety of turkeys unless the width of the breast at a point  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches above the keel was at least  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches in width for both toms and hens at the time of selection and inspection.

- (6) Page 7, Paragraph 4. Second sentence changed to read as follows:

Before saving eggs for hatching or offering for sale U.S. Approved eggs or poults of any one variety, at least 25 percent of the hatchery flocks of this variety supplying eggs to the hatchery must be inspected and approved by the State inspector, and the remainder of the flocks must be inspected during the hatching season.

- (7) Page 7, Paragraph 9. First sentence changed to read as follows:

These hatcheries shall be inspected by a State inspector at least once during the hatching season.

- (8) Page 10, Paragraphs 8 and 12. Changed to require only 2 of the 3 inspections to come within the 13-week trap-nesting period.

- (9) Page 11, Paragraph 16. Changed to read as follows:

In order to qualify for U.S.R.O.P., the eggs of each hen must have an average weight of at least 30 ounces to the dozen. All the normal eggs laid during two consecutive weeks (14 days) of the eight weeks referred to in paragraph 17 of this section and a minimum of 10 eggs shall be weighed in arriving at the average egg weight.

- (10) Page 11, Paragraph 17, and Page 16, Paragraph 22 (a). Added the following:

At altitudes of 3000 to 3499 feet the minimum qualifying hatchability percentage shall be 65.

- (11) Page 16, Paragraph 21 (a). Added the following:

At altitudes of 3000 to 3499 feet the minimum qualifying hatchability percentage shall be 60.

- (12) Page 17, Paragraph 2. Changed to read as follows:

The official test for pullorum disease in turkeys shall be the standard tube agglutination test, as described in the Proceedings of the United States Live Stock Sanitary Association, November 30 to December 2, 1932, pages 487-491. The rapid serum test, as described by Runnells, Coon, Farley, and Sharp, Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Vol. 70 (N.S. 23), No. 5, pages 660-662, 1927, also will be accepted as an official test for a period of another year beginning August 1, 1945, provided the cooperating official State agency using this method will agree to test 500 or more turkeys with both the standard tube and rapid serum methods, make an autopsy and a bacteriological examination of all of these



turkeys reacting to one test and not to the other, and report the results to the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture. With the approval of the official State agency, the rapid, whole-blood, stained-antigen method when conducted by a State inspector as described below may be used as an official test for qualifying for the U.S. Pullorum-Tested and U.S. Pullorum-Controlled classes for a period of one year beginning August 1, 1945, provided the cooperating official State agency using this method will agree to test 500 or more turkeys with both the standard tube and rapid, whole-blood, stained antigen methods, make an autopsy and a bacteriological examination of all these turkeys reacting to one test and not to the other, and report the results to the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture. The comparative testing referred to above shall be done in five or more flocks in which pullerum infection is suspected.

Directions for Making the Rapid, Whole-Blood Plate Test for Pullorum Disease in Turkeys

All official rapid, whole-blood tests of turkeys made under the provisions of the National Turkey Improvement Plan shall be made with an antigen to be identified as Provisional Turkey Stained Antigen and shall be obtained from the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry upon specific and direct request made by the contact representative of the plan in the State in which the antigen is to be used.

The materials, other than antigen, to be used in the test are those recommended for use in the rapid, whole-blood plate test of chickens; namely, a porcelain or glass plate provided with a white background, a loop that delivers 0.02 to 0.025 cc of blood, a dropper that delivers 0.05 cc of antigen, and equipment for cleaning or washing the plates and loops. A thermometer and timepiece must also be provided.

The test shall be carried out in a manner similar to that used in the whole-blood test of chickens as described in Miscellaneous Publication No. 349. The same proportions of blood to antigen (1 to 2 or 3) shall be used. However, the reactions with pullorum infected turkeys are usually less pronounced and develop more slowly than reactions with positive chicken blood. It is, therefore, necessary when testing turkeys to allow a longer time for reading and to observe the smear more closely than when testing chickens. For these reasons, the smear shall be observed for at least three minutes after mixing and all birds shall be considered positive reactors and must be removed which give a visible reaction however slight.

Unless provisions are made for heating the plate, testing shall not be conducted when the air temperature is below 70°F.

More than one test may be placed upon the plate at one time, but the full 3-minute period shall be allowed for reading each test.

(13) Page 17, Paragraph 6. Changed to read as follows:

In the event that tests to qualify or requalify flocks as U.S. Pullorum-Passed or U.S. Pullorum-Clean reveal any reactors, the owner



shall have the right to submit, or the official State agency the right to request the submission of, all reactors if 5 or less, or 20 percent of all reactors with a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 20 to a laboratory designated by the official State agency for autopsy and bacteriological examination. In case such bacteriological examination fails to reveal any conclusive evidence of pullorum infection, the flock shall be construed as having had no pullorum. All reactors not slaughtered for bacteriological examination shall be removed and disposed of in a manner satisfactory to the official State agency.

(14) Page 17, Paragraph 7. Changed to read as follows:

The custom-hatching of turkey eggs or eggs of other poultry from non-U.S. Pullorum-Tested flocks is permitted in U.S. Pullorum-Tested and U.S. Pullorum-Controlled hatcheries, provided the incubation and hatching of such eggs are done in a separate room under the conditions prescribed in paragraph 8 of this section, but such custom-hatching may not be done in U.S. Pullorum-Passed and U.S. Pullorum-Clean hatcheries.

(15) Page 19, Section 2, Paragraph 3; and Page 20, Section 3, Paragraph 3; and Page 21, Section 4, items 2 and 3 (d), Plan II.

Changed the phrase "not less than 30 days" to read "not less than 21 days."

(16) Page 19, Paragraph 6. Changed to read as follows:

U.S. Pullorum-Tested hatcheries.--These hatcheries operate under the supervision of an official State agency and hatch eggs or breed poults and hatch chicken eggs or brood chicks from only U.S. Pullorum-Tested, U.S. Pullorum-Controlled, U.S. Pullorum-Passed, or U.S. Pullorum-Clean turkey and chicken flocks, except that custom-hatching may be carried on under the conditions prescribed in article 3, section 1, paragraph 8.

(17) Page 20, Paragraph 6. Changed to read as follows:

U.S. Pullorum-Controlled hatcheries.--These hatcheries operate under the supervision of an official State agency and hatch eggs or brood poults and hatch chicken eggs or brood chicks from only U.S. Pullorum-Controlled, U.S. Pullorum-Passed, or U.S. Pullorum-Clean turkey and chicken flocks, except that custom-hatching may be carried on under the condition prescribed in article 3, section 1, paragraph 8.

(18) Page 21, Paragraph 5. Changed to read as follows:

U.S. Pullorum-Passed hatcheries.--These hatcheries operate under the supervision of an official State agency and hatch eggs or brood poults from U.S. Pullorum-Passed or U.S. Pullorum-Clean flocks only. Chicken eggs may not be incubated or hatched and chicks may not be brooded in the same room with U.S. Pullorum-Passed turkey eggs or poults, except from U. S. Pullorum-Passed or U. S. Pullorum-Clean chicken flocks and hatcheries. Chicken eggs and chicks of the U. S. Pullorum-Controlled class only may be incubated, hatched, and brooded in a U. S. Pullorum-Passed hatchery, provided all hatching and brooding operations are separated to the satisfaction of the official State agency.

(19) Page 22, Section 5, Paragraph 2. Deleted this paragraph.

(20) Page 22, Paragraph 7. Changed to read as follows:

U.S. Pullorum-Clean hatcheries.--These hatcheries operate under the supervision of an official State agency and hatch eggs or brood poult from U.S. Pullorum-Clean flocks only. Chicken eggs may not be incubated or hatched and chicks may not be brooded, except from U.S. Pullorum-Clean chicken flocks and hatcheries.

The members of the Emergency Executive Committee and the sections of the country represented by each are as follows:-

Mr. A. H. Demke, Chairman, Stephenville, Texas, representing the South-Central States.

Dr. George Ghostley, Anoka, Minn., representing the North-Central States.

Mr. Henry J. Hansen, Puyallup, Wash., representing the Western States.

Mr. J. E. Humphrey, Lexington, Ky., representing the Southeastern States.

Mr. Roy E. Jones, Storrs, Conn., representing the Northeastern States.

Mr. G. S. Vickers, Secretary, Columbus, Ohio, representing the East North Central States.



